

TO MOVIE MEN

BY DR. FRANK CRANE.

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I went to a Movie last night. I am mad yet. I was insulted. How did any Movie Man ever have the audacity to present such a picture? What does he think the American Public is, anyway? Partly from the chin up? Or solid bone?

Oh, the photography was all right, the pictures were good—fine effects, sunsets, and faces seen reflected in mirrors, and soldiers marching in silhouette against a red sky, and close-ups where we saw the villain's face working with crime-grapes, and all that; and the girl at the piano was a fair player, and knew enough not to play the Spring Song during the Snow Scene, nor Chopin's Funeral March while the fond lovers were a Maying hand in hand, nor Rock of Ages while the wicked D. Desmond was looting his uncle's safe; and the Price was right, being fifteen cents, indeed, everything about the affair was excellently gotten up—

Except the Story.

And that was cheap, poor, and wholly impossible.

Which is the reason why I ask, Why, when the billionaire Movie Magnate hires the most expensive, handsome, and capable Actors he can find, paying them wages that make J. P. Morgan grit his teeth, and procures the services of the most expert photographers, and builds Scenery that costs a fortune, and buys advertising space in newspapers and magazines with a high hand and a stretched out arm, and deluges every newspaper office a foot deep with press notices, and gets photographs of his film beauties in all the magazines, and every thing, why, I repeat, does he get the Barber to write his stories.

Why pay Mary Pickford a billion dollars a year, and then get the Teamster or the Painter to write the Story for fifty cents?

For the average Movie Plot is simply pink.

What grudge have Movie Men against regular Authors?

Why are Actors cheerfully paid \$1,000 a week, while if an Author wants \$1,000 a year the Movie Man will have fit?

Doesn't the last named gentleman realize that, after all, the Story's the thing?

Which reminds me of one Senator Billy Mason told. He went down to some town in Southern Illinois to make a speech during the presidential campaign. Arriving about noon he entered a barber shop to get shaved. The negro who barbershed him said:

"Y'all ought to been here this mawnin', Senator," and heard Colonel Robinson's speech. It was the grandest speech I ever listened to in my life. That man is suddenly the mos' eloquentest man I ever done set under. He talked two hours an' a half. I could a listened to him fo' a week. Yassir, it was suddenly a gorgeous ad-dress."

"I'm glad to hear that," replied the Senator. "What did he say about?"

"What did he talk about?" answered the negro, and then after a moment's hesitation added. "Well, he didn't just say."

LITTLE STORIES FOR BEDTIME



BY THORNTON W. BURGESS.
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A Hairy Kind of Tongue.
Tongues were made for tasting,
As you know very well;
And tongues were made for talking,
As any one can tell.

But tongues have other uses.
At least some do I know.
Just you ask Mr. Blacksmoke.
If you think this isn't so,

PETER RABBIT hopped his way and hopped very hard at Mr. Blacksmoke as if to make sure that Mr. Blacksmoke wasn't fooling. It was certain that Mr. Blacksmoke had found out somehow that Peter the Hyla had been sitting right there on the bank of the Smiling Brook only a few minutes before. Mr. Blacksmoke had said that he had found it out with his tongue. To Peter this is a new use for a tongue, and he couldn't quite believe it. Peter has seen some hairy tongues in his day. He knew that most tongues were used for talking and eating and washing. He knew that Mr. Toad's tongue was used for catching his food, but this

was the first time he had ever heard that a tongue could be used like a nose.

For a minute or two Peter said nothing more but watched Mr. Blacksmoke darting his tongue out and in and in as he glided this way and that way in the hope of finding Peter the Hyla hiding somewhere near. There was something very frightening about that tongue of Mr. Blacksmoke. For one thing it looked like two tongues. You see it is a forked tongue and this is what makes it look like two tongues. As Peter watched he saw that Mr. Blacksmoke touched a blade of grass here and a blade of grass there to be darted. His tongue is out. It seemed funny.

Then suddenly he got rid of the idea that Blacksmoke was using his tongue like Ratty Fox or Mole or the mouse Shadow the Weasel use their tails and knew that noses tell you about everything they want to know.

I guess other people.

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